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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9381
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1408
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0231

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 000561

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/RHS (NEVILLE)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/09/2019

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [IR](#) [QA](#)

SUBJECT: QATAR TO SEEK ANOTHER TERM ON HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL, SEEKS U.S. SUPPORT

REF: SECSTATE 90247

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Mirembé L. Nantongo for reasons 1.4 (b
and d).

(C) KEY POINTS

-- MFA Director of International Organizations and UN
Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Sowaidi told P/E Chief Rice and Poloff
Caudill on September 8 that Qatar intends to seek another
term on the U.N. Human Rights Council. He also requested
U.S. support for its bid.

-- Al-Sowaidi said he did not know which other countries
would be seeking the seat.

-- Al-Sowaidi said that formal notification of Qatar's
candidacy and request for our support would be forwarded to
Embassy Doha or the State Department in Washington by
diplomatic note in the near future.

(C) COMMENTS

-- Qatar's overall human rights record is good, especially
given the region in which it is located.

-- Per reftel request, we assess that Qatar is unlikely to
support an objective assessment of alleged human rights
abuses committed by Israel or the Palestinians, or to
address country-specific situations in the absence of
consensus on the Council.

-- The Department's assessment of Qatar's voting record to
date on the Council in keeping with U.S. objectives (reftel)
would likely be the best indicator of Qatar's voting
pattern for a subsequent term.

End Key Points and Comments.

11. (C) MFA Director for International Organization and UN
Affairs

Abdulaziz Al-Sowaidi told P/E Chief Rice and Poloff Caudill
on September 8 that Qatar will seek another term on the UN
Human Rights Council. He asked that the U.S. support
Qatar's efforts to retain its seat.

12. (C) Asked whether he knew of any other countries that
might run for the seat in the Asian Group, Al-Sowaidi said
that he did not. He suggested that we meet with MFA Human
Rights Director Shaykh Khalid Al-Thani for an assessment of
Qatar's chances at prevailing in an election.

¶3. (C) Al-Sowaidi said that he expected that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Al-Mahmoud would soon approve the instructions seeking U.S. support for Qatar's candidacy.

¶4. (C) P/E Chief Rice undertook to advise Department of Qatar's candidacy and request for U.S. support.
Nantongo